NOTE.

In accordance with the instructions contained in the Dewan's Memo, dated the 6th October 1933, we inspected the Vani Vilas Sagara Dam, visited several villages commanded by it, gave personal interviews to the raiyats and held a Conference at Hiriyur on the 14th November 1933, at which a large number of persons owning lands in the Channel Area were present and made their representations. As a result of these enquiries, in which the Superintending Engineer, Shimoga Circle, the Deputy Commissioner, Chitaldrug District and other local officers also participated, we wish to place the following conclusions and proposals before Government :—

I. ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUPPLY OF WATER.

In Government Order No. R. 3463-68—L. R. 13-26-23, dated the 14th November 1927, Government accepted the view that continuous supply in the monsoon period and intermittent supply during summer should be introduced with effect from 1st January 1928 so as to ensure the conservation of water in the lake. This view was reiterated in Government Order No. R. 322-26—L. R. 13-27-15, dated the 13—14th July 1928. Mr. P. G. D'Souza, on whose recommendation the latter Government Order was based, had, however, pointed out that the bulk of the raiyats are not used to grow paddy during the monsoon season. Supply of labour is insufficient ; and as the raiyats are engaged in cultivating their dry fields, there is not sufficient labour for paddy cultivation. There is a strong feeling also that paddy is not as remunerative in the tract when grown under monsoon conditions as during summer, and no experiments have been conducted to prove to the raiyats how equal benefit can be derived by cultivating paddy in summer. (Para 29).

Further on in the same report (para 34), he observed that the assemblage of raiyats who had met him had agreed to the continuance of the system of supplying water continuously in the monsoons and intermittently in summer for a peroid of two years, the Agricultural Department demonstrating to them the possibility of realising a good crop by monsoon irrigation of paddy.

These and other passages in the Report were understood to imply that the raiyats had acquiesced for the present in the necessity of adopting continuous monsoon supply and intermittent summer supply as the only means of conserving water.

The arrangement was accordingly tried during 1928-29. But during the two following years, there was a serious fall in the level of the lake, which made it impossible to issue any water for paddy cultivation, and only intermittent supplies wereallowed. In 1932-33, however, there were heavy rains, and consequently large receipts into the Reservoir, and the demand of the raiyats for continuous supply in summer was complied with ; and in consideration of this facility, the water-rate, which had been reduced to Rs. 3-8-0 and Rs. 4-0-0 during the two previous years, was raised to Rs. 5-8-0 per acre. The position during the years in question will be evident from the following figures:—

Year	Extent under occupation	Water level at the commencement of the year (1st January)	Aggregate area cropped including double cropping	Water-rate levied	Total demand (water-rate)
				Rs. a. p.	
1928-29	9,355	79·70	10,062	3 8 0	39,085
1929-30	7,835	71·52	9,816	5 0 0	37,485
1930-31	7,357	75·17	9,332	4 0 0	34,278
1931-32	7,586	73·54	8,647	3 8 0 4 8 0	27,320
1932-33	7,695	121·15	12,251	5 8 0	42,940

During the current year, the rainfall has been exceptionally heavy, and the lake discharged to a height of six feet over the waste weir. As might be expected in these circumstances, the demand for continuous supply in summer has been revived, the demand being reinforced by the complaint that the monsoon crop has, in certain cases, been ini[redacted] by excessive rain, and in certain others, by prolonged interruption of supply owin[redacted] breach of the High Level Channel. This complaint is, in our opinion, largely e[redacted] and does not by itself constitute any reason for modifying the prescribed s[redacted] ply. But having regard to the fact that the lake is now full and tha[redacted] asked for could be safely allowed this year, we recommend that con[redacted] given for paddy cultivation during the ensuing summer.

As to the further question, whether this arrangement should b[redacted] years, we can only give a tentative opinion, as the relative yield o[redacted] the monsoon and in summer has not been determined by the Agr[redacted]

the figures of consumption of water (including evaporation losses) under the two systems of regulation, collected by the Public Works Department present large and unaccountable variations. Pending the result of the further investigation to be made in this behalf we have to recognise as an undoubted fact that the monsoon cultivation of paddy is unpopular in the tract. Even those who favoured it at one time are now generally opposed to it. They prefer continuous supply during summer, whenever the storage in the lake permits, and intermittent supply at all other times. This may be accepted tentatively as the basis of regulation for the immediate future, summer cultivation of paddy being permitted only in years when the level of water in the lake is above 120 feet on 1st November.

II. WATER-RATE.

In recent years, water-rate has been levied at Rs. 3-8-0 if only intermittent supply was provided throughout the year, at Rs. 5 if continuous supply was given during the monsoon, and at Rs. 5-8-0 and Rs. 6-8-0 when water was issued for the summer cultivation of paddy. It is suggested that for the next few years, and pending the resettlement of the tract, Rs. 5 per acre be charged as water-rate when only an intermittent supply is given throughout the year, and Rs. 6-8-0 when water is given for summer cultivation, as the latter system obviously requires a larger volume of water. These rates are by no means excessive, considering that "the water-supply afforded by the Vani Vilas Sagara, is, as compared with that under similar works in the State, of a superior order" as observed by Government in Order, dated the 13th June 1925. In view, however, of the prevailing economic depression, we recommend that for the year 1933-34, water-rate be fixed at Rs. 5-8-0 as a special case, as was done last year.

III. GARDEN CULTIVATION.

In para 4 of the Government Order of 14th July 1928, certain special concessions were given in respect of cocoanut cultivation. Representations were made to us that (1) the concessions shown in respect of cocoanut may be extended to arecanut cultivation also, and (2) that the raising of plantain and other under inter-crops might be allowed in lands planted with cocoanut and arecanut, whether such lands were near village sites or not. We see no objection to these proposals and recommend them for the approval of Government.

It was also represented that orange, lime, pomegranate trees could be grown in the area, and that their cultivation might be encouraged by extending to all orchard cultivation the concessions shown in respect of cocoanut cultivation. We support this proposal also; but consider that on lands granted for orchard cultivation, the full rate of assessment should be levied from the fifth year onwards.

In this connection, it is suggested that orchard or garden cultivation in the lands on the upper margin of the canals might be encouraged wherever possible by lift irrigation, a water-rate of Rs. 2 being levied per acre.

It was brought to notice in this connection that while half the water-rate is levied on lands under cocoanut cultivation, cesses were recovered in 1932-33, on the full water-rate, contrary to the practice followed in previous years. Instructions were issued that in future, cesses should be calculated upon the water-rate actually levied and not on its potential increase.

At the conference of landholders, several other concessions were asked for, but there is no need for us to particularise or comment upon them as they were either patently inadmissible or of such a character as could be considered only with reference to particular cases.

A petition presented to us by the landholders at the Conference is hereto attached.

N. MADHAVA RAO,
Revenue Commissioner.

M. G. RANGAIYA,
Chief Engineer.

d by the Superintendent at the Government Press, Bangalore.